

DNCC to set up fire hydrants in slums

DIPAN NANDY

If you live in Dhaka, you know how frighteningly frequent fires in slums are. In this year alone, fires have engulfed several large slums in the city, notably in Kalyanpur, Madhubagh and Dakshinkhan – causing damage to lives and property.

Often, fire service struggles to douse the flames in these densely populated slums, mainly because of water scarcity and fire engines failing to enter the narrow alleys.

Last year, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Atiqul Islam said they want to install fire hydrants in slums so that their dwellers can respond immediately and minimise losses in case of such incidents.

The idea was simple: giving slum dwellers a means to douse or contain blazes before firefighters arrive, and to give firefighters an additional source of water.

But for the next 15 months, this plan was nothing but an empty promise, as no visible steps had been taken to install hydrants in slum areas.



However, DNCC recently allocated Tk 10 crore to install fire hydrants in these densely populated areas.

DNCC Chief Executive Officer Selim Reza said, “Fire hydrants will be installed in Dhaka like in the developed world. Initially, these will be installed in slums under the north city corporation area. We will gradually install hydrants in rest of the places.”

“The initial work of the project has started. We hope that some progress will be visible soon,” he added.

Welcoming the initiative, Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Brig Gen Md Main Uddin said, “Fire hydrant systems exist in all developed cities. If this project is implemented, the work of the fire service will become easier.”

Urban planner Adil Muhammad Khan said, “This initiative will be successful if the hydrants can be directly linked with a reservoir. It’s praiseworthy that a government organisation is thinking about the slum dwellers. This project has to be implemented on a priority basis.”



Women sit around a karam tree and pray to nature for the prosperity of their families. Karam, one of the biggest festivals of the Mahato community in Sirajganj, ended yesterday with over 50,000 people from the indigenous community taking part in it. As part of the celebrations, many performed dances and songs, which enthralled the audience. This photo was taken on Khiritola High School premises in Raiganj upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Not repaired in 3 decades

Farmers suffer as sluice gates remain inoperative



SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Farmers of Rangabali upazila of Patuakhali are struggling to save their crops from flooding as most of the sluice gates installed on various rivers and canals remain inoperative due to a lack of maintenance.

According to Water Development Board, in order to protect people’s lives and property from natural disasters including floods, WDB constructed about 200km long flood control dams in various riverside areas including Agunmukha, Tentulia, Buragaurang, Darchira of Rangabali upazila. A total of 94 sluice gates were constructed in those dams.

These sluice gates were built in the 90’s but have not been repaired ever since. Forty of those sluice gates are now defunct.

During a recent visit to Koralia of Chhotabaishdia union, this

correspondent saw that the sluice gate at Agunmukha on Koralia canal has become inoperative. As a result, saline water enters arable land during the tide.

Other than controlling water levels and flow rates in rivers and canals, sluice gates also are used in wastewater treatment plants. They are also efficient in preserving rainwater.

Meaning, as most of the sluice gates in the areas remain inoperative, farmers are now unable to use fresh water during the irrigation season.

Sobahan Howladar, a farmer of Koralia village, said, “Aman cultivation requires a lot of water. But due to salinity, we can’t use river water. We are also failing to preserve rainwater in absence of a reservoir.”

“This year, I wanted to plant Aman in three acres of my land. By the look of things, I’m nowhere near reaching this target,” he said.

Although the sluice gate of the Dangar Canal is operational, the natural flow of water in the canal has been disrupted as locals cultivate fish in that waterbody.

“As the canal is getting filled with silt, flooding has become a common issue, damaging our house and crops,” said farmer Solaiman Fakir.

Rangabali upazila agriculture officer Iqbal Ahmed said their target this year was to cultivate Aman on 28,230 hectares of land.

However, crops are being damaged due to saline water as the sluice gates are not working, he said. “They need to be repaired immediately,” he added.

Contacted, WDB Kalapara sub-divisional engineer Shaukat Iqbal Mehraj said the matter has been reported to the higher authorities and they will start the repair work soon.

DSCC starts drive to free Gulistan footpaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After taking an initiative to demarcate zones for hawkers recently, Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday evicted over a thousand hawkers from footpaths and roads in Gulistan, to ensure smooth movement for pedestrians and vehicles.

The drive, led by chief estate officer Md Muniruzzaman, started at 11:00am and ended at 3:00pm. After repeatedly failing to prevent hawkers from taking over the capital’s roads, DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh last week announced plans to categorise DSCC roads.

“Red zones” will be completely off-limits to hawkers.

They will, however, be able to set up their stalls on footpaths and roads in “yellow” and “green” zones, on conditions based on time and weekday.

Moniruzzaman said the volume of traffic on Mayor Hanif flyover has increased ever since vehicles started moving on Padma Bridge. And so, following the mayor’s direction to ensure smooth vehicular movement there, authorities conducted the drive.

Authorities have identified areas situated in and around Gulistan Zero Point to Sergeant Ahad Police Box via Bangabandhu Avenue as red zones.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

4 go missing as boat capsizes in Padma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Four people went missing after a boat capsized in the Padma River in Rajshahi yesterday morning.

The boat capsized in the city’s Jogar Ghat area around 8:30am. Fire service divers were working to rescue the missing.

Deputy Assistant Director of Rajshahi Fire Service Zakir Hossain said there were about 30 people on the boat going towards Madhyachar from Jogar Ghat. The boat sank before reaching Madhyachar. Most of the passengers swam to the shore, he said.

220 BNP men get anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 220 local BNP leaders and activists from four districts got six weeks’ anticipatory bail from the High Court yesterday in nine separate cases recently filed on charges of vandalising vehicles and obstructing police from discharging duties.

The HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Hasan and Justice Md Atabullah granted the bail after hearing several petitions filed by the accused BNP men from Sirajganj, Narayanganj, Chattogram and Noakhali.

The bench also asked the accused to surrender to the lower courts concerned in six weeks.

Earlier in the day, the accused BNP leaders and activists appeared before the HC bench for bail.

Petitioners’ lawyers AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal told The Daily Star that police filed the cases against their clients during the ongoing movement against price hike of essentials.

The cases were filed on false charges in order to harass them, they added.

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & OHSAS 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-3)
NWPGL, Soyadabad, Sirajganj-6700.

Ref: 27.28.8878.301.07.001.22.175

Date: 11/09/2022

e-Tender Notice (Re-Tender)

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID		Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
Old	New					
1	713879	727396	Procurement of Spares for HP&LP Bypass system, Gasket of CCCW Heat Exchanger, Rubber ball cleaning system and Vacuum pumps.	11/09/2022, 10:00 AM	27/09/2022, 02:00 PM	28/09/2022, 09:00 AM
2	713882	727799	Procurement of Low Voltage Motors.	11/09/2022, 09:00 AM	27/09/2022, 02:00 PM	28/09/2022, 09:00 AM
3	713884	727800	Procurement of Spares for Pneumatic and Motorized Actuators.	11/09/2022, 09:00 AM	28/09/2022, 02:00 PM	29/09/2022, 09:00 AM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Date: 11 September, 2022

e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method) (NCT)

This is to notify to all concerned that the following tenders have been published through e-GP portal.

Tender/ Proposal ID No	Name of Works	Publishing & Last selling Date	Closing Date
Tender ID No- 732434	Supplying College dress and Sportswear for the students of BKSP	11-Sep-2022 at 13:00 Hr 26-Sep-2022 at 18:00 Hr	27-Sep-2022 at 15:00 Hr
Tender ID No- 731806	Supplying sports shoes for the students of BKSP	11-Sep-2022 at 13:00 Hr 26-Sep-2022 at 18:00 Hr	27-Sep-2022 at 15:00 Hr

The interested Firms/Persons may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the Tender. This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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